(b) Slow progress was due to inadequate mobilization of plant and machinery, material, labour etc. at site by the contractor.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The contract of the contractor who was executing this work has been terminated and thereafter the balance work has been awarded to the Build-Operate and Transfer (BOT) Concessionaire of the ongoing six laning project on Bharuch-Surat Section of NH-8. The work is in progress and targeted for completion by July, 2009.

Upgradation of Haridwar-Rishikesh road

1519. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the condition of the road between Haridwar and Rishikesh in Uttarakhand;

(b) whether his Ministry is aware that lakhs of pilgrims and tourists travel on this road; and

(c) the plan to upgrade this road including the time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The National Highway between Haridwar and Rishikesh in Uttarakhand is in traffic worthy condition.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Haridwar to Nepali Farm section of the National Highway has been identified for 4 laning as part of Haridwar to Dehradun section under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase III on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis. Work for updation of Detailed Project' Report (DPR) is in progress and after clearance from Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC), 4 laning work is targeted to be awarded by December, 2008. The work of paved shoulder is in progress in 7.4 km. length between Nepali Farm to Rishikesh and targeted to be completed by June, 2008. Remaining 1.60 km length is proposed for widening with paved shoulder in next Annual Plan 2008-09.

Vessels Traffic System

1520. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any project to establish Vessels Traffic System in Gulf of Kutch to regulate the shipping traffic;

(b) the status of establishment of VTMS for the Gulf of Kutch;

(c) to whom the project has been awarded;

(d) the time overrun that has taken place in the project;

(e) the reasons for the dealy; and

(f) by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.